

St. Joseph: Joshua Lichtenbarger, Katie Jaskowiak.

Vermillion: Cody Porter, Annie Morgan.

Wabash: Kurt Biehl, Ashley Height.

Warrick: Joey Smith, Maggie Springstun.

Washington: Josh Robinson, Jennifer Goering.

Wayne: James McGuire, Victoria Rommer.●

#### EDUCATION-FLEXIBILITY ACT

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I was pleased to join 97 of my colleagues to vote in favor of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, or Ed-Flex, last week. This bill expands the current federal Ed-Flex pilot program to all states and allows them to waive certain federal education requirements for local schools, so long as schools are accountable for making education improvements, and does so without altering federal requirements concerning health, safety and civil rights. It is my hope that Ed-Flex can help increase student achievement by serving as a catalyst for innovative school reform at the state and local levels.

Mr. President, while I am pleased the Senate passed the underlying Ed-Flex bill, I am disappointed that the bill includes amendments that would force local schools to choose between smaller classes and students with special needs. These amendments could undermine the important class size reduction program agreed to on a bipartisan basis last year. I was also deeply disappointed with the defeat of the Kennedy/Murray class size amendment, which would have built on the down payment of 30,000 teachers agreed to last year and finished the job by authorizing class size funding for the next six years.

My own State of Wisconsin has been a leader among the states trying to reduce class size in the early grades. Wisconsin's Student Achievement Guarantee in Education or SAGE class size reduction program, has proven conclusively that smaller classes make a difference in our children's education. SAGE officials want the Federal Government to be a partner in Wisconsin's effort to reduce class size. Federal funds are an important complement to Wisconsin's ongoing SAGE program and will ensure that SAGE continues to thrive. The rejection of the Kennedy/Murray amendment sends a discouraging message to schools in my State and across the nation that are just beginning to make decisions about how to implement the class size funds agreed to last year.

It is very unfortunate Mr. President that two critically important federal programs, funds for special education and to reduce class size, were pitted against each other during the Ed-Flex debate. I am fully committed to funding for special education, but not at the expense of funds to reduce class size. The promise of these critically important education funds affecting our nation's children should not fall victim to partisan maneuvers. Con-

gress should not be choosing one over the other—both special education and class size are national education priorities. American parents should know those in Congress who pit these programs against each other are the friend of neither.

Finally, Mr. President, while I understand that Ed-Flex is not a panacea for America's education problems, I do believe it will improve the federal, state and local partnership needed to ensure our children receive the best quality education possible. I am confident that the conference committee will protect the class size funds agreed to last year and that Congress will vote on an improved version of Ed-Flex in the near future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALFRED TESTA JR.

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Alfred Testa on his departure as the Director of Manchester Airport. Fred has been the Director of Manchester Airport since 1991. He has brought about tremendous and exciting change to the airport during his tenure and I am proud to have worked with him during his distinguished career.

Fred came to Manchester after serving as Deputy Director of T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island. He is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a B.A. in Political Science and earned his J.D. at Suffolk University Law School. He is an Accredited Airport Executive with the American Association of Airport Executives and is a regular lecturer on airport development, management and marketing.

Fred has been the driving force behind the substantial growth at Manchester Airport. When Fred began as Manchester Airport's Director, the airport handled approximately 700,000 passengers a year and there were six commercial airlines that serviced the airport. Today, there are eleven commercial airlines based there, and last year, the airport served almost 2 million travelers. Fred's efforts have played a key role in the City of Manchester's nationally recognized renaissance.

Fred has worked closely with each member of the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation - educating, advising, and encouraging us to undertake a number of vital federal initiatives at the airport. He has vigorously pursued support for the Residential Sound Insulation Program; the New Passenger Terminal; the New Armed Forces Reserve Center; the Manchester Airport Access Road; and the Runway, Taxiway, Parking, Roadway and Terminal Improvements and U.S. Customs Service's at the renovated Ammon Terminal. It has been my great privilege to work with Fred on these and other important airport projects which have fundamentally changed for the better air transportation services for New Hampshire. Fred deserves the highest admiration and praise for these significant accomplishments.

Fred leaves Manchester Airport to become the Director of Philadelphia International Airport. Aldermen and the Mayor of Manchester have expressed high praise for the work Fred did for the City of Manchester, and I strongly agree. His leadership and effective advocacy for safe and efficient airline transportation will be fondly remembered by all New Hampshire citizens.

Once again, I would like to commend Fred Testa on his service to Manchester Airport and the State of New Hampshire. His work was greatly beneficial to the City and the State, and I wish him well. It has been a pleasure to represent Fred Testa in the United States Senate, and I am proud to call him my friend.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTIN SANTINI

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Martin Santini, an architect and planner who has literally helped New Jersey build and grow. His entrepreneurial spirit is to be commended as the firm he founded, Ecoplan, celebrates its 25th year in existence. Ecoplan is an award-winning architectural, planning, and design firm, whose clients include the State of New Jersey. His peers have recognized his talent, accomplishments, and contributions to the State as he has been elected as president of the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He is a registered architect in six States and licensed as a professional planner in the State of New Jersey.

After graduating with both Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture, as well as an Urban Planning degree, Martin established his own firm in 1974. Ecoplan has been dedicated to providing quality design services and producing creative solutions that add lasting value to its client's projects. After 25 years of committed service, his firm has grown exponentially. Recently, Ecoplan was ranked as the 14th largest architectural firm in New Jersey by New Jersey Business Magazine. To date, Ecoplan has designed and built over 1,000 structures in the Tri-State region. As Ecoplan's president, Martin has been largely responsible for this success.

Martin and Ecoplan have served the State of New Jersey well. Ecoplan's clients include numerous municipalities, counties, boards of education, housing authorities, and police departments. They have served the public sector well by closely maintaining construction budgets and schedules, which are so important in Ecoplan has also served the private sector and various communities well, building schools, medical offices, YMCAs, condominiums, townhouses, apartments, single family homes, corporate headquarters, restaurants, commercial office buildings, warehouses, and a wide variety of additions, renovations, and interior design projects.